

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A photonic switching device for switching without contention data in the form of optical packets includes a space switching matrix with a plurality of input ports and a plurality of output ports. A unit external to the space switching matrix includes a
5 buffer memory common to all the output ports of the matrix. Each of the output ports provides access to the buffer memory via a space switching stage consisting of switches having a 1-to-2 switching function.